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<p>1 you're there?</p> <p>2 A. That is right.</p> <p>3 Q. Are you working 40-hour weeks, or would</p> <p>4 you say you're working more than that because you're</p> <p>5 living there?</p> <p>6 A. Working more than that. Yeah.</p> <p>7 Q. So we're talking about, basically, the</p> <p>8 last 20 years, 17 years you've been at the United Inn</p> <p>9 and Suites a lot.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Would you say that anybody's been at the</p> <p>12 property more than you during that time period?</p> <p>13 A. When you say "anybody," I -- I don't know</p> <p>14 what you talking about.</p> <p>15 Q. Well, any other person, any other person</p> <p>16 who works at the United Inn and Suites. Has anybody</p> <p>17 been at the property for longer than you have?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Would you say you're more knowledgeable</p> <p>20 about the property than anybody else?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Because you've spent more time there than</p> <p>23 anybody else has?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. You know better than anybody else does,</p>	<p>1 he had no objection, so he said that's fine. I don't</p> <p>2 know why.</p> <p>3 Q. Who are the officers of Northbrook</p> <p>4 Industries, Inc.?</p> <p>5 A. Myself and Sabharwal.</p> <p>6 Q. Anybody else?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. And what's your title as an officer?</p> <p>9 A. The president.</p> <p>10 Q. Was it true in 2017 to 2019, that the only</p> <p>11 officers of United Inn and Suites was you and</p> <p>12 Mr. Sabharwal?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Is the United Inn and Suites a chain?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Is it affiliated with any other hotels?</p> <p>17 A. I used to have another hotel called United</p> <p>18 Inn and Suites in Macon, Georgia.</p> <p>19 Q. When was that?</p> <p>20 A. Since 2012 through 2021.</p> <p>21 Q. From 2012 to 2021, you had a property</p> <p>22 called the United Inn and Suites in Macon, Georgia?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. And you were the owner of that hotel?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>
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<p>1 then, I take it, the staff at the hotel from 2017 to</p> <p>2 2019?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. The guests at the property during that</p> <p>5 period?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. The police officers who came by the</p> <p>8 property during that period?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. How did you come to know Tahir -- I'm</p> <p>11 sorry. How did you come to know Ashar Islam?</p> <p>12 A. He's a family member.</p> <p>13 Q. A family member of yours?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. What is the family relationship?</p> <p>16 A. He is my nephew.</p> <p>17 Q. Nephew. At -- at some point, he becomes</p> <p>18 the registered agent for Northbrook Industries; is</p> <p>19 that right?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you ask him to do that because he was</p> <p>22 your nephew, or why did you ask him to do that?</p> <p>23 A. I don't know, but on one time -- I don't</p> <p>24 know how that happened, but of course we ask him</p> <p>25 that, you know, we need his name for the agent. And</p>	<p>1 Q. With Mr. Sabharwal?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Sole owner?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. And I assume you identified that property</p> <p>6 through a broker again?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Was there a relationship between the</p> <p>9 United Inn and Suites in Macon and the United Inn and</p> <p>10 Suites in Decatur?</p> <p>11 A. On -- on what relation? On what basis?</p> <p>12 Q. Well, they had the same name.</p> <p>13 A. Right.</p> <p>14 Q. So did they share employees?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you work at both hotels?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Did Mr. Shareef work at both hotels?</p> <p>19 A. Who?</p> <p>20 Q. Did Mr. Islam work at both hotels?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. Does your wife work at the United Inn and</p> <p>23 Suites?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. So when she travels with you from</p>

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<p>1 Q. -- you owned it?</p> <p>2 A. You can say manager, too.</p> <p>3 Q. And you also received training on hotel</p> <p>4 operations through AAHOA?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. When did you receive the training on hotel</p> <p>7 operations from AAHOA?</p> <p>8 A. That is on and off. Whenever they offer a</p> <p>9 training and it's the time permitted on the --</p> <p>10 sometime the training is for a few months, sometimes</p> <p>11 it's few weeks, but on and off, they offer a training</p> <p>12 session. And I took the advantage.</p> <p>13 Q. Was that in person or online?</p> <p>14 A. At that time, it was on -- not online. It</p> <p>15 was all in person.</p> <p>16 Q. So when is the last time that you</p> <p>17 participated in a training on running a hotel?</p> <p>18 A. I can say maybe 2002.</p> <p>19 Q. So, since 2002, you do not believe you</p> <p>20 have participated in any trainings on running hotels?</p> <p>21 A. The training, I -- I participate of</p> <p>22 meeting with the DeKalb County. And they have</p> <p>23 presented, you know, some of the rules and</p> <p>24 regulation, you know, and the little bit talk about</p> <p>25 staff training and the safety procedure of the hotels</p>	<p>1 those.</p> <p>2 Q. You do have those?</p> <p>3 A. Yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. Where are those? Are they at your house</p> <p>5 or are they at the hotel or...</p> <p>6 A. No, they are at the -- at the business.</p> <p>7 But we kind of, you know, take whatever the bullets</p> <p>8 point and have our own, kind of, guidelines.</p> <p>9 Q. Because those have not been provided in</p> <p>10 discovery, so I'm just trying to understand if you</p> <p>11 know why that would be.</p> <p>12 A. Because they are bunch of handouts, and we</p> <p>13 had our -- well, like our own, kind of, guidelines.</p> <p>14 So we are using that.</p> <p>15 Q. Other than you wife, Ashar Islam, and Saad</p> <p>16 Iqbal, are there any other family members of you,</p> <p>17 Tahir Shareef, whoever worked at the United Inn and</p> <p>18 Suites in Decatur?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. It's only those three?</p> <p>21 A. Right.</p> <p>22 Q. And let's take 2017 as an example,</p> <p>23 Mr. Shareef. When you were at the property in 2017,</p> <p>24 who -- how many people would be working during any</p> <p>25 given shift?</p>
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<p>1 in the DeKalb County. And that is meetings for half</p> <p>2 a day. And this only couple of times.</p> <p>3 Q. Who in DeKalb County provided those</p> <p>4 trainings?</p> <p>5 A. The DeKalb County. I believe that's</p> <p>6 DeKalb County some -- I think they call it tourism</p> <p>7 department.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you saying that you think you attended</p> <p>9 more than one half-day training with the DeKalb</p> <p>10 County Tourism Department?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And would that have been after 2002?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, in 2000 -- maybe '13, '14, something</p> <p>14 like that.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you recall who led those trainings?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Have you ever participated in any</p> <p>18 trainings led by the DeKalb County Police Department?</p> <p>19 A. There was a police department there at the</p> <p>20 training. They have police chief and they have bunch</p> <p>21 of other police officer there. And they talk about</p> <p>22 it.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you have any documents from any of the</p> <p>24 trainings that you attended?</p> <p>25 A. They -- they give you handout, so I have</p>	<p>1 A. Each shift has one person at the front</p> <p>2 desk, and then bunch of housekeepers, and the</p> <p>3 maintenance person, and the cleaning staff, the</p> <p>4 ground cleaning staff.</p> <p>5 Q. That sounds like a lot of people working</p> <p>6 during a shift.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And so how many people is that?</p> <p>9 A. Any given shift, we have five</p> <p>10 housekeepers, one front desk person, and one cleaning</p> <p>11 staff taking care of the yard work.</p> <p>12 Q. So at any given point in time, there would</p> <p>13 be seven people working during a shift?</p> <p>14 A. In the daytime, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. In the daytime shift?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. What about during the nighttime shift?</p> <p>18 A. Nighttime, there is only one person who</p> <p>19 work at the front desk. And the -- the police</p> <p>20 officer come late at night.</p> <p>21 Q. So, the nighttime shift would be one hotel</p> <p>22 staff member at the front desk.</p> <p>23 A. Right.</p> <p>24 Q. And then for a certain portion of the</p> <p>25 night, a police officer; is that correct?</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Anybody else working at the hotel?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. And we've already established that during</p> <p>5 the nighttime, the hotel lobby's shut down, so the</p> <p>6 person working would be working behind the window?</p> <p>7 A. That's right.</p> <p>8 Q. When your wife and your nephews have</p> <p>9 worked at the United Inn and Suites, I assume that</p> <p>10 you're the one supervising them; is that right?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. There's not somebody else who supervises</p> <p>13 them because they're you're family members?</p> <p>14 A. Ashar is there to supervise also.</p> <p>15 Q. But they're his family members, too,</p> <p>16 right?</p> <p>17 A. Yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. When -- looking at 2017 to 2019, and</p> <p>19 focusing on that time period, Mr. Shareef, during</p> <p>20 that time window, did you have responsibility for</p> <p>21 training staff at the United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Did Mr. Islam have responsibility for</p> <p>24 that, too?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 prostitution there.</p> <p>2 Q. What do you consider prostitution?</p> <p>3 MR. STORY: Object to the form. You</p> <p>4 can answer.</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: I -- I -- I don't know</p> <p>6 if prostitution, a common word, I guess.</p> <p>7 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) What does it mean to</p> <p>8 you?</p> <p>9 A. Prostitution, they take money for the sex.</p> <p>10 Q. Are you familiar with the term sex</p> <p>11 trafficking?</p> <p>12 A. I -- I read through the -- some papers</p> <p>13 says sex trafficking.</p> <p>14 Q. What do you understand that term to mean?</p> <p>15 A. Meaning the prostitution, you know, same</p> <p>16 thing.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you think there's a difference between</p> <p>18 prostitution and sex trafficking?</p> <p>19 A. I don't --</p> <p>20 MR. STORY: Object to the form. You</p> <p>21 can answer.</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: -- think so.</p> <p>23 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) When did you first heard</p> <p>24 -- hear the term "sex trafficking"?</p> <p>25 A. You know, see news, here and there, you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 Q. And you, earlier, outlined your</p> <p>2 responsibilities at the hotel generally. And you</p> <p>3 said they included monitoring the property,</p> <p>4 supervising staff, and you listed some other items.</p> <p>5 Would you say that Mr. Islam's responsibilities were</p> <p>6 identical to yours when he was working?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. What's your understanding of why we're</p> <p>9 here today, Mr. Shareef?</p> <p>10 A. To answer your questions, I guess.</p> <p>11 Q. Well, do you have an understanding of why</p> <p>12 I noticed your deposition for today and what the</p> <p>13 lawsuits in these cases are about?</p> <p>14 A. Yes. It's -- there are three girls,</p> <p>15 they -- you know, they sue us that they are living</p> <p>16 sometime at the property.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you understand why they've sued?</p> <p>18 A. I don't know how to answer that. I mean,</p> <p>19 I -- I -- I don't know how to answer that.</p> <p>20 Q. Well, do you have an understanding of what</p> <p>21 they're alleging happened at the property?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, I understand that.</p> <p>23 Q. What is it that you understand they've</p> <p>24 alleged happened to them that property?</p> <p>25 A. Says they are minor and they are doing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 know, about the sex trafficking.</p> <p>2 Q. So you have heard the term prior to this</p> <p>3 lawsuit, I take it?</p> <p>4 A. Yeah, yeah. It shows -- like I said,</p> <p>5 there was a -- the meetings with the DeKalb County,</p> <p>6 so this thing come up, you know, sex trafficking and</p> <p>7 prostitution.</p> <p>8 Q. Were those topics discussed at the DeKalb</p> <p>9 County trainings that you attended?</p> <p>10 A. I believe so, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you remember what was said about those</p> <p>12 topics?</p> <p>13 A. Yes. The people, you know, use the hotel</p> <p>14 to rent a room and do the prostitution there.</p> <p>15 Q. So by 2017, did you understand that hotels</p> <p>16 were places used for prostitution and sex</p> <p>17 trafficking?</p> <p>18 A. Yes. I can say yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did the trainings through DeKalb County</p> <p>20 provide you with signs and red flags and things to</p> <p>21 look for that would indicate victims of sex</p> <p>22 trafficking on your hotel property?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, that was a part of that, you know,</p> <p>24 conversation.</p> <p>25 Q. What did you understand those signs and</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 red flags and indicators of sex trafficking to be?</p> <p>2 A. For me, I believe it's the same as a, you</p> <p>3 know, prostitution. Sex trafficking is the same.</p> <p>4 Q. And I heard you say that earlier. I'm</p> <p>5 asking a slightly different question.</p> <p>6 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>7 Q. I think you said that at the DeKalb County</p> <p>8 trainings, one of the things they discussed in the</p> <p>9 trainings was things that you could look for as a</p> <p>10 hotel owner and observe with your -- with your</p> <p>11 eyes --</p> <p>12 A. Right.</p> <p>13 Q. -- to make an assessment as to whether or</p> <p>14 not somebody may be a victim of sex trafficking. And</p> <p>15 I thought you said yes, that that was an aspect of</p> <p>16 the training.</p> <p>17 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>18 Q. Is that correct?</p> <p>19 A. Yeah.</p> <p>20 Q. So what did they tell you about what you</p> <p>21 could look for with your eyes that would be an</p> <p>22 indication that somebody is a victim of sex</p> <p>23 trafficking?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah, it was told that, you know, somebody</p> <p>25 coming and complain to you, you go and, you know,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 the first page, it says, Who we are. The Blue</p> <p>2 Campaign is the unified voice for the U.S. Department</p> <p>3 of Homeland Security's efforts to combat human</p> <p>4 trafficking. Working with law enforcement,</p> <p>5 government, and nongovernmental and private</p> <p>6 organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect</p> <p>7 the basic right of freedom and bring those who</p> <p>8 exploit human lives to justice. Do you see that?</p> <p>9 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>10 Q. Are you familiar with the Blue Campaign?</p> <p>11 A. Not on this one, no.</p> <p>12 Q. If you take a look at the second page of</p> <p>13 Plaintiff's Exhibit 2, do you see that there are</p> <p>14 three bullet points in the top half of the page?</p> <p>15 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>16 Q. One also says sex trafficking --</p> <p>17 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>18 Q. -- do you see that?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And I want to read to you what it says</p> <p>21 under sex trafficking. It says, Victims of sex</p> <p>22 trafficking are manipulated or forced to engage in</p> <p>23 sex acts for someone else's commercial gain. Sex</p> <p>24 trafficking is not prostitution.</p> <p>25 Do you see that?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 call the police, DeKalb County police, and just</p> <p>2 direct to them that this person is complaining. Or</p> <p>3 if you observe that there's a -- in any particular</p> <p>4 room, there are people, you know, going in and out</p> <p>5 more than they're supposed to and you check it, and</p> <p>6 then, you know, if it's necessary, then call the</p> <p>7 police.</p> <p>8 Q. Anything else that you recall about the</p> <p>9 trainings?</p> <p>10 A. That's kind of it.</p> <p>11 Q. I'm showing you what's been marked as</p> <p>12 Plaintiff's Exhibit 2, which is Bates-stamped</p> <p>13 Plaintiff 24763 to 24768.</p> <p>14 (Exhibit No. 2 was marked for</p> <p>15 identification.)</p> <p>16 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Do you see what I've</p> <p>17 just handed you, Mr. Shareef?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. And do you see the first page at the top</p> <p>20 also says, Blue Campaign?</p> <p>21 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you see that in the middle of the first</p> <p>23 page, it says Hospitality Toolkit?</p> <p>24 A. Right.</p> <p>25 Q. And then do you see on the bottom left of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you agree with that?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. You're not disputing what the Department</p> <p>5 of Homeland Security says in this Blues campaign --</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. -- statement, right?</p> <p>8 A. I agree with that.</p> <p>9 Q. And do you see in the next section here it</p> <p>10 says, Anyone under the age of 18 engaging in</p> <p>11 commercial sex is considered to be a victim of human</p> <p>12 trafficking.</p> <p>13 Do you see that?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And then you see it says in bold, No</p> <p>16 exceptions?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you see that?</p> <p>19 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you agree with that?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. You're not saying that you have a</p> <p>23 different view on sex trafficking than what's stated</p> <p>24 in this form right here?</p> <p>25 A. Huh-uh.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 Q. Is that correct?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. So do you agree that anyone under the age</p> <p>4 of 18 engaging in commercial sex is a victim of human</p> <p>5 trafficking?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah, I agree.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you agree that sex trafficking is not</p> <p>8 prostitution?</p> <p>9 A. Yeah, I agree it says.</p> <p>10 Q. Do you understand that the plaintiffs in</p> <p>11 each of these cases, J.G., A.G., and G.W., were under</p> <p>12 the age of 18 at the time that they were at the</p> <p>13 United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>14 A. I understand that.</p> <p>15 Q. And do you understand that each of those</p> <p>16 three young women have alleged that they were engaged</p> <p>17 in commercial sex activity at the hotel?</p> <p>18 A. That's what they, yeah, alleging, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Are you saying that's not true?</p> <p>20 A. No, but I don't know. I find out, you</p> <p>21 know, when see this lawsuit. But I don't know at</p> <p>22 that time, no.</p> <p>23 Q. I assume you would defer to the</p> <p>24 conclusions of law enforcement and a judge --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 know, that the -- when I see your report. But, of</p> <p>2 course, we have this area that's a pretty high crime</p> <p>3 area.</p> <p>4 Q. And I'm not -- I appreciate the answer.</p> <p>5 I'm not asking generally about Memorial Drive or</p> <p>6 DeKalb County as a whole, or even metro Atlanta.</p> <p>7 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>8 Q. I'm asking specifically about the United</p> <p>9 Inn and Suites at 4649 Memorial Drive.</p> <p>10 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>11 Q. Did that hotel, in your opinion, from 2017</p> <p>12 to 2019, have a high level of crime?</p> <p>13 MR. STORY: Object to the form. You</p> <p>14 can answer.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: I have -- you know, I</p> <p>16 have found out, you know, after that, you</p> <p>17 know, when I see those reports. Because I</p> <p>18 can say that, you know, we -- you know,</p> <p>19 when we need the police officer for any</p> <p>20 type of help, so I believe we call almost</p> <p>21 two calls a week, maybe three calls a week.</p> <p>22 But the list, what I see there, this is --</p> <p>23 happened after, you know, the something</p> <p>24 happened. I did not know most of these</p> <p>25 incidents.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 Q. -- as to whether or not they were sex</p> <p>2 trafficked?</p> <p>3 MR. STORY: Object to the form. You</p> <p>4 can answer.</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: I -- I -- I don't know</p> <p>6 that time about this case. These people</p> <p>7 never come to me, you know, so I don't have</p> <p>8 any knowledge.</p> <p>9 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) You don't know one way</p> <p>10 or another if they were sex trafficked at the hotel.</p> <p>11 Is that what you're saying?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Mr. Shareef, the -- the time period that</p> <p>14 we're focusing on in today's deposition is 2017 to</p> <p>15 2019. I may ask you questions about other time</p> <p>16 periods, but I'd like to really focus in on those</p> <p>17 years.</p> <p>18 A. Okay.</p> <p>19 Q. During that time period, that is 2017 to</p> <p>20 2019 --</p> <p>21 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>22 Q. -- would you say that it was true or false</p> <p>23 that the United Inn and Suites had a high level of</p> <p>24 crime?</p> <p>25 A. I -- I can say that I find -- find it, you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) When you say "the list,"</p> <p>2 what list are you referring to?</p> <p>3 A. I see a list about the, you know, the --</p> <p>4 something happened in -- back in June 2018, something</p> <p>5 happened in July '19. So the cases, they -- the date</p> <p>6 of some incident happened.</p> <p>7 Q. Are you talking about the complaints --</p> <p>8 A. The complaint.</p> <p>9 Q. -- of these lawsuits?</p> <p>10 A. Not the complaints of these lawsuits.</p> <p>11 Q. You're talking about a different document?</p> <p>12 A. Not the different document. I see a list</p> <p>13 of -- bunch of, you know, reports.</p> <p>14 Q. The police reports?</p> <p>15 A. It says -- that was -- is a list. I don't</p> <p>16 know. I see that one.</p> <p>17 MR. STORY: He's referring to</p> <p>18 Requests for Admissions.</p> <p>19 MR. BOUCHARD: Oh, okay.</p> <p>20 MR. STORY: That you sent.</p> <p>21 MR. BOUCHARD: Okay.</p> <p>22 MR. STORY: -- and the list of the</p> <p>23 prior crimes that --</p> <p>24 MR. BOUCHARD: Understood.</p> <p>25 MR. STORY: -- have been --</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 MR. BOUCHARD: Okay.</p> <p>2 MR. STORY: -- admitted. That's</p> <p>3 when -- he's referring to the list --</p> <p>4 THE WITNESS: Yeah, that's -- that's</p> <p>5 the one. Yeah.</p> <p>6 MR. BOUCHARD: Okay.</p> <p>7 MR. STORY: Correct me if I'm wrong,</p> <p>8 but that is --</p> <p>9 MR. BOUCHARD: Thanks, Will. Yeah.</p> <p>10 MR. STORY: -- what he -- sorry, I'm</p> <p>11 not trying to --</p> <p>12 MR. BOUCHARD: No, no.</p> <p>13 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) So discovery request</p> <p>14 that we sent --</p> <p>15 A. Right.</p> <p>16 Q. -- in this case or these cases, that's the</p> <p>17 list you're talking about?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, that is.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 A. That's --</p> <p>21 Q. Got it. From 2017 to 2019, is it your</p> <p>22 opinion that activities like prostitution were common</p> <p>23 at the United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>24 MR. STORY: Object to the form. You</p> <p>25 can answer.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 member, or based on something that you yourself</p> <p>2 observed.</p> <p>3 Did you believe that from 2017 to 2019,</p> <p>4 that activities like prostitution were common at the</p> <p>5 United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>6 MR. STORY: And can I just get a</p> <p>7 clarification of when are we talking about</p> <p>8 his knowledge. His knowledge right now or</p> <p>9 his knowledge in 2019?</p> <p>10 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Well, you can answer</p> <p>11 however you see fit.</p> <p>12 A. I can say I'm not aware of it.</p> <p>13 Q. You're not aware of it?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah.</p> <p>15 Q. So your testimony is, I was not aware of</p> <p>16 there being any prostitution at the United Inn and</p> <p>17 Suites from 2017 to 2019?</p> <p>18 MS. WARD: Objection --</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: At that time.</p> <p>20 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) At that time?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah.</p> <p>22 Q. That's your testimony?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. Under oath?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 THE WITNESS: After looking at that</p> <p>2 report, I can say yes. I don't know.</p> <p>3 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Well, you're saying</p> <p>4 after looking at that report, but you've told me,</p> <p>5 Mr. Shareef, that in 2017 and 2019, you were spending</p> <p>6 15 to 25 days at the hotel.</p> <p>7 A. Right.</p> <p>8 Q. Every month?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And that you were working more than</p> <p>11 40 hours a week because you were living at the hotel?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. And your wife, oftentimes, was with you</p> <p>14 also working at the hotel?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. And you had multiple family members</p> <p>17 working at the hotel, right?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. And you talked to staff who you supervised</p> <p>20 about the operations at the property, right?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. So I'm not asking you to take my list for</p> <p>23 it. I'm asking for your observations during that</p> <p>24 time, either based on conversations you had with your</p> <p>25 wife or Saad Iqbal or Ashar Islam, or any other staff</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 Q. You had no knowledge of any prostitution</p> <p>2 at the hotel?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. And would your wife's testimony, do you</p> <p>5 believe would it be the same?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you believe there would be staff</p> <p>8 members at the hotel who would testify differently?</p> <p>9 A. I don't know, but -- I don't know how</p> <p>10 they...</p> <p>11 (Exhibit No. 3 was marked for</p> <p>12 identification.)</p> <p>13 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Showing you what's been</p> <p>14 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 3. You see that this</p> <p>15 is a PowerPoint presentation from Luz Borrero, who</p> <p>16 I can represent to you, Mr. Shareef, was the deputy</p> <p>17 operating officer for development for DeKalb County.</p> <p>18 You see that on the first page of Plaintiff's</p> <p>19 Exhibit 3?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you know Ms. Borrero?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. She's now involved with running MARTA for</p> <p>24 the City of Atlanta, so she's gotten some promotions</p> <p>25 along the way. But in 2015, she was working in</p>

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<p>1 Q. And it says, Some of these properties have 2 become a convenient haven for criminal activities. 3 Do you see that? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Do you believe that the United Inn and 6 Suites became a convenient haven for criminal 7 activities? 8 A. I -- I don't know. I -- I don't believe 9 so. 10 Q. Did you ever ask the DeKalb County Police 11 Department what their view of the hotel was? 12 A. I ask my police officer when -- all the 13 time, you know. 14 Q. Your police officer? What do you mean by 15 that? 16 A. Meaning the -- the two police officer, 17 they are working for me for the longer period of 18 time. 19 Q. What are their names? 20 A. One is Officer McClelland, and the other 21 one is officer Webber. 22 Q. When did they work for you? 23 A. They work every day. Every night. 24 Q. Yeah, but during what time period? 25 A. They are -- they are there at nighttime,</p>	<p>1 company that you hired? 2 A. No. 3 Q. You just paid these gentlemen, correct -- 4 A. Yes. Yes. 5 Q. Did you just pay them cash? 6 A. I pay them check. Yeah, check. 7 Q. Did you have a written contract with them? 8 A. No. 9 MR. STORY: And David, I don't want 10 to -- 11 MR. BOUCHARD: Yes. 12 MR. STORY: -- interrupt at a bad 13 time, we've been going a little over an 14 hour. If we can take a five minute break 15 -- we don't have to do it now, but once you 16 get to the -- 17 MR. BOUCHARD: Yeah, sounds good. 18 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Let's look at slide 11 19 on Plaintiff's Exhibit 3, Mr. Shareef. It calls out 20 the United Inn and Suites here. And in the bottom 21 right-hand corner, it talks about code violation 22 notes. Do you see that? 23 A. You said bottom which corner? 24 Q. Bottom right-hand corner. 25 A. Oh, right. Yeah. Okay.</p>
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<p>1 you know. 2 Q. Well, I'm asking during what years. 3 A. Oh, what year. Oh, what year. They are 4 working since -- I always have police officer, but 5 these two, they are here longer days. I think they 6 are here since 2016. 7 Q. So, you would ask Officer McClelland and 8 Officer Webber about their perspectives on the hotel 9 property? 10 A. Right. Right. 11 Q. Were they off-duty DeKalb County Police 12 Department officers? 13 A. They are off duty, yeah, I think so. But 14 they usually come in their uniform. I don't know how 15 to consider off duty, but -- 16 Q. Did they work for the DeKalb County Police 17 Department? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Did you have a contract with these 20 gentleman or how -- how did you find them? 21 A. I just hire them. They come and work for 22 me. 23 Q. You paid them directly? 24 A. I paid them directly. 25 Q. There was not a company, a security</p>	<p>1 Q. And it says, Interior and exterior 2 structure problems; is that right? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And it says, Roach, rat infestation? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Did the hotel have a roach/rat 7 infestation? 8 A. I know I have roach, but I don't know 9 where the rat come from. But I have roaches problem. 10 Q. During the time that we're focused on, 11 which is 2017 to 2019, is it your opinion that the 12 hotel, that is the United Inn and Suites, regularly 13 violated DeKalb County codes? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Like health codes? 16 A. Yeah. 17 Q. All right. Let's -- 18 A. If I can say one thing here. 19 Q. Sure. 20 A. They have -- they have one inspection on 21 that period. And it's like a -- it's not regularly, 22 it's like once-a-year inspection. And that time, 23 they wrote a bunch of tickets. 24 Q. How often would the county come out to 25 inspect for code violations?</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 violations. They should not even write it.</p> <p>2 Q. So how many do you think were legitimate</p> <p>3 violations?</p> <p>4 A. Maybe 10, 15.</p> <p>5 Q. 10 -- 10 or 15 out of 447?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah.</p> <p>7 Q. But you paid \$60,345 anyway?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you object to the code violation</p> <p>10 assessments, or did you agree that you were</p> <p>11 responsible?</p> <p>12 A. I objected.</p> <p>13 Q. But you decided to pay the full fine</p> <p>14 violation anyway?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you have an explanation for why the</p> <p>17 code enforcement at DeKalb County would have been</p> <p>18 citing your hotel improperly?</p> <p>19 MR. STORY: Objection. You can</p> <p>20 answer.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: I don't have what they</p> <p>22 have in mind.</p> <p>23 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Are you saying that you</p> <p>24 think the DeKalb County Code Enforcement team was</p> <p>25 improperly citing your hotel for code violations?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 identification.)</p> <p>2 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) This is a -- Plaintiff's</p> <p>3 Exhibit 5 is an AJC article, an Atlanta Journal</p> <p>4 Constitutional article, entitled DeKalb News,</p> <p>5 Extended Stay Hotel Inspections lead to 2,397</p> <p>6 citations.</p> <p>7 Do you see that?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And there's a portion of this article that</p> <p>10 talks about the United Inn and Suites. If you go to</p> <p>11 page 2 of the article towards the bottom, the second</p> <p>12 --</p> <p>13 A. Page number?</p> <p>14 Q. Page 2?</p> <p>15 A. 2, okay.</p> <p>16 Q. The second to last paragraph towards the</p> <p>17 bottom of the page starts with "The worst offender."</p> <p>18 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>19 Q. Was United Inn and Suites in Decatur,</p> <p>20 which paid \$60,345 in fines after receiving 447</p> <p>21 citations last year. It was among four hotels along</p> <p>22 Memorial Drive that made the list.</p> <p>23 Do you see that?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Are you aware of whether you had guests</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>2 Q. Who do you think was responsible for</p> <p>3 improperly citing your hotel?</p> <p>4 A. Whatever they did that year and next year,</p> <p>5 that's totally unfair. Totally unfair.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you know the names of the people?</p> <p>7 A. I have the names, but nothing I can do.</p> <p>8 Q. Well, what are the names?</p> <p>9 A. I have bunch of name there.</p> <p>10 Q. Where?</p> <p>11 A. At my office. They left their business</p> <p>12 card and stuff. And bunch of them are fired.</p> <p>13 They're not -- no longer working at the code</p> <p>14 enforcement.</p> <p>15 Q. How do you know that they were fired?</p> <p>16 A. Because I find out they're not coming</p> <p>17 anymore.</p> <p>18 Q. You recognize that because somebody's not</p> <p>19 coming anymore doesn't necessarily mean they were</p> <p>20 fired.</p> <p>21 A. Well, I -- I did kind of find out they're</p> <p>22 not there, but I have no proof.</p> <p>23 Q. I'm showing you what's been marked as</p> <p>24 Exhibit 5.</p> <p>25 (Exhibit No. 5 was marked for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 complain to DeKalb County about the conditions of the</p> <p>2 hotel?</p> <p>3 A. Had guest complain to DeKalb County. I --</p> <p>4 I know the -- you know, like a -- I can say, the</p> <p>5 prior year, 20, you know, '16 or '14, or '15, maybe</p> <p>6 the inspector come once or twice a year, those extra</p> <p>7 when guest complain, to the DeKalb County. And they</p> <p>8 came and checked the room for some, you know -- or</p> <p>9 some roaches violation or maybe leaky faucet.</p> <p>10 Q. Have you ever been trained on the DeKalb</p> <p>11 County code?</p> <p>12 A. Trained on DeKalb County codes?</p> <p>13 Q. Yeah.</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. I mean, are you saying that you are an</p> <p>16 expert in the DeKalb County codes that the</p> <p>17 enforcement team was assessing compliance with --</p> <p>18 A. Well, I'm not expert, but I -- I totally</p> <p>19 disagree with them.</p> <p>20 Q. I want to look back at Plaintiff's</p> <p>21 Exhibit 3, which is this PowerPoint presentation we</p> <p>22 looked at from Luz Borrero with the Office of</p> <p>23 Development in DeKalb County. And slide seven, which</p> <p>24 we looked at in Plaintiff's Exhibit 3 -- you with me?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 And that's the time we bring some calm to the -- to</p> <p>2 the area.</p> <p>3 Q. Why not have a security guard for the</p> <p>4 other 20 hours a day?</p> <p>5 A. Because like I said, I am there or someone</p> <p>6 there to observe. And if we -- you know, if we need</p> <p>7 help, we call the DeKalb County police.</p> <p>8 Q. But you told me that you typically worked</p> <p>9 the day shift, which is what hours, sir?</p> <p>10 A. From -- let's say from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>11 Sometimes it goes to late night.</p> <p>12 Q. So, from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. is the night</p> <p>13 shift, I thought is sort of the way you described to</p> <p>14 me earlier.</p> <p>15 A. Yeah.</p> <p>16 Q. Is that true?</p> <p>17 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>18 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>19 A. Right.</p> <p>20 Q. And it's from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., you told</p> <p>21 me, that there's generally one person working on the</p> <p>22 property other than the security guard.</p> <p>23 A. Right.</p> <p>24 Q. And that one person working is behind the</p> <p>25 window because the lobby's closed?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 at the front desk.</p> <p>2 Q. No.</p> <p>3 A. Okay.</p> <p>4 Q. I think we're -- so, in a 24-hour day,</p> <p>5 there's a day shift and there's a night shift --</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. -- right?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. And the day shift always has more</p> <p>10 than one person?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Right. The night shift may only have one</p> <p>13 person if the security guard's gone home.</p> <p>14 A. Right.</p> <p>15 Q. Is that correct?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. And so from 9 p.m. until 10 p.m., the</p> <p>18 security guard is not there; is that correct?</p> <p>19 A. 10 p.m. to, like, a 9 a.m., yes, that's</p> <p>20 right, security guard is not there.</p> <p>21 Q. 9 to 10 p.m., the security guard is not</p> <p>22 there --</p> <p>23 A. No, no, no.</p> <p>24 Q. From 9 p.m. --</p> <p>25 A. 9 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 A. Right.</p> <p>2 Q. So when the security guard goes home at</p> <p>3 2 a.m. --</p> <p>4 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>5 Q. -- there is one human being working at the</p> <p>6 property and they're behind a window --</p> <p>7 A. Right.</p> <p>8 Q. -- is that right? True?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. They're not walking around the property,</p> <p>11 right?</p> <p>12 A. No, they walk around the property, you</p> <p>13 know, on a needed basis. They have the camera system</p> <p>14 there, we have bunch of cameras, and they can watch</p> <p>15 the cameras. And they can see something, somebody</p> <p>16 standing outside, out of -- they look someone who is,</p> <p>17 you know, they think is not a guest, they, you know,</p> <p>18 tell them to, you know, leave the property.</p> <p>19 Q. So, how many hours a day is there one</p> <p>20 person working at the United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>21 A. Are you asking a night shift person?</p> <p>22 Q. No. I'm just asking how many hours in a</p> <p>23 24-hour day is there one person working at the United</p> <p>24 Inn and Suites.</p> <p>25 A. At the front desk, only one person working</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 Q. -- to 10 p.m., the security guard is --</p> <p>2 A. Yeah.</p> <p>3 Q. -- not at --</p> <p>4 A. Yeah.</p> <p>5 Q. -- the hotel?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah.</p> <p>7 Q. And from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m., the security</p> <p>8 guard is not at the hotel, right?</p> <p>9 A. That's right.</p> <p>10 Q. We've been talking about staffing and</p> <p>11 whether there's one person at the hotel. Was all of</p> <p>12 that true from 2017 to 2019?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. So what we've been discussing about when</p> <p>15 the security guard worked and when there was one</p> <p>16 person at the front desk, that was true from 2017 to</p> <p>17 2019?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 MR. STORY: And David, I just want</p> <p>20 to provide a point of clarification here.</p> <p>21 I think a little -- so there was a shift</p> <p>22 change at some point post these events.</p> <p>23 During these events, my understanding is</p> <p>24 that there was three shifts. There are</p> <p>25 now, at United Inn, two shifts.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 you know, they need the watch out because they are</p> <p>2 the police officer and they tell me, look, we check</p> <p>3 the room, we talk with the people, and there is</p> <p>4 nothing going on.</p> <p>5 Q. How many times do you think you had</p> <p>6 conversations with the DeKalb police Department about</p> <p>7 prostitution?</p> <p>8 A. I had maybe five, six times.</p> <p>9 Q. During what time period?</p> <p>10 A. For last so many years.</p> <p>11 Q. And how many times did you talk to the</p> <p>12 DeKalb County Police Department about sex</p> <p>13 trafficking?</p> <p>14 A. About the sex trafficking, I don't think I</p> <p>15 ever talked to them.</p> <p>16 Q. So are you saying that the DeKalb County</p> <p>17 Police Department would come talk to you about</p> <p>18 prostitution after they had already been on the</p> <p>19 property to arrest somebody relating to prostitution?</p> <p>20 A. The answer is yes, but those -- those --</p> <p>21 some of those times, I call, or my front desk call,</p> <p>22 or the -- my manager call to the police officer, and</p> <p>23 tell them, look, we -- we think there is a, you know,</p> <p>24 too much traffic going on, there is some suspicious</p> <p>25 stuff going on. So, we don't want to go to the room,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 guards?</p> <p>2 A. No, they -- they said, you know, you</p> <p>3 should hire security guard.</p> <p>4 Q. They said that?</p> <p>5 A. Yeah, they said some, you know.</p> <p>6 Q. But you decided not to?</p> <p>7 A. Yeah, I did not do it so far.</p> <p>8 Q. Did the DeKalb County Police Department</p> <p>9 ever notify you in writing that there was</p> <p>10 prostitution on the property?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. All of these communications that you're</p> <p>13 describing were oral communications?</p> <p>14 A. Right.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you have any written correspondence of</p> <p>16 any type with the DeKalb County Police Department?</p> <p>17 A. Correspondence meaning?</p> <p>18 Q. Meaning letters, e-mails, faxes.</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you have an e-mail that you maintain</p> <p>21 for the United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. What is that e-mail address?</p> <p>24 A. It's called UnitedInn4649@gmail.com.</p> <p>25 Q. What do you use that e-mail address for?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 but help us. So they came and they tell us, look,</p> <p>2 you know, we are telling you to, you know, remove</p> <p>3 these people from here and we are going to arrest</p> <p>4 them, or they may have the warrant. So they take</p> <p>5 them with them. So sometimes we call them and they</p> <p>6 take out the people. And then, you know, they --</p> <p>7 they did tell me, you know, like, look, you know,</p> <p>8 this women doing prostitution and we -- we find out</p> <p>9 this in our record, so we taking them off there. Or</p> <p>10 sometime they come in for their own, and they arrest</p> <p>11 people and take them away.</p> <p>12 Q. After you had conversations with the</p> <p>13 DeKalb County Police Department about prostitution,</p> <p>14 did you ever say, you know, as the owner and manager</p> <p>15 of this hotel, I need to consider what steps I can</p> <p>16 take to try to prevent that from happening on this</p> <p>17 property?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. What steps did you take?</p> <p>20 A. No, I asked them what should I do. And</p> <p>21 they said look, you know, you need to call us, don't</p> <p>22 try to, you know, involve with the commotion, don't</p> <p>23 put yourself -- yourself in, you know, jeopardize</p> <p>24 position, call us.</p> <p>25 Q. Did they say don't hire any more security</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 A. I use it for sending e-mail to, you know,</p> <p>2 like a -- some customer, you know. If they need --</p> <p>3 you know, sometimes they need to authorize me, you</p> <p>4 know, that sometime they have -- and it's not</p> <p>5 sometime, it's, you know, a few times. The owner of</p> <p>6 the credit card, you know, send me the information</p> <p>7 because they are sending their conception group. And</p> <p>8 they send their information, they send the custom</p> <p>9 group's information.</p> <p>10 And that's -- I talk to some of customer,</p> <p>11 you know. If they have a complaint, they send me,</p> <p>12 you know, we need service, you know, that day or we</p> <p>13 need extra service. So they communicate, you know,</p> <p>14 once a while like that.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you use that e-mail address to send and</p> <p>16 receive e-mails related to the business operations of</p> <p>17 the hotel?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did that e-mail address exist in 2017?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Was it in use at that time?</p> <p>22 A. I believe so. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. You said that the DeKalb County Police</p> <p>24 Department recommended hiring security guards; they</p> <p>25 said that you could call them, the DeKalb County</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 Police Department, any time you saw a crime on the 2 property. 3 A. Right. 4 Q. Did they recommend that you take any other 5 steps on the property to try to reduce crime, reduce 6 prostitution? 7 A. They recommended to me? No, that's the -- 8 pretty much, you know, like when they come in, we 9 have conversation, you know, that this thing can -- 10 and this is their -- and their response is, look, you 11 know, this is, you know, the neighborhood we have, 12 you know, on the Memorial Drive, you know. Crime 13 happen. 14 Q. I'm going to show you what's been marked 15 as Plaintiff's Exhibit 8, which is Bates-stamped 16 Plaintiff 194 and 195. 17 (Exhibit No. 8 was marked for 18 identification.) 19 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) This is a police report, 20 Mr. Shareef, dated August 12th, 2015. Do you see 21 that? 22 A. Uh-huh. Yes. 23 Q. Have you seen this report before? 24 A. No. 25 Q. I'll represent to you -- you can see on</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 A. No, I don't have any recollection. 2 Q. And you can see in the top left, the 3 incident type is identified as simple assault, 4 interference with government property. And I can 5 represent to you, sir, that if you go to page 1382, 6 which is really the fourth page of the document -- or 7 I'm sorry, page 1383, which is really the fifth page 8 of the document, that the assault involved a man 9 beating a woman in Room 345 at the hotel over monies 10 owed for sexual favors. 11 MR. STORY: One more page. It's on 12 the next page. You're on 1383, David? 13 MR. BOUCHARD: Yes, Will, I am. 14 Sorry, I jumped. 15 MR. STORY: No, that okay. 16 THE WITNESS: 82? 17 MR. BOUCHARD: I'm on 83. 18 MR. STORY: Yeah, you're on the 19 right one. Okay. 20 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) So this report says in 21 summary, Mr. Shareef, that a man was arrested after 22 beating a woman in Room 345 over monies owed for 23 sexual favors. Do you agree that in June 2017, there 24 was prostitution on the property at United Inn and 25 Suites?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 the first page at the very top in the left, it says, 2 Incident type: Prostitution. And I'll represent to 3 you on the narrative on page 2, that this report 4 documents that a woman was arrested for prostitution 5 at the hotel after meeting two undercover officers in 6 the parking lot, and then walking to Room 101 of the 7 hotel. The woman didn't have a key to the room. The 8 report says, she walked to the front desk to get one, 9 and then went back to Room 101 to have commercial sex 10 with these undercover officers, and they arrested 11 her. 12 Do you agree that there was prostitution 13 at the United Inn and Suites as of August 2015? 14 A. Yeah, looking at this report, I agree. 15 Q. I'm going to show you what's been marked 16 as Plaintiff's Exhibit 9. 17 (Exhibit No. 9 was marked for 18 identification.) 19 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) And this is 20 Bates-stamped Plaintiff 1379 to 1383. Mr. Shareef, 21 this is a police report, Plaintiff's Exhibit 9 that 22 dated June 2nd, 2017. Do you see that? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. And I trust you have not seen this report 25 before, or have you seen it before?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 A. I mean, looking at this report, yes. 2 Q. I'm showing you what's been marked as 3 Plaintiff's 10, which is Bates-stamped 1398 to 1401. 4 (Exhibit No. 10 was marked for 5 identification.) 6 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) And this is a police 7 report, Mr. Shareef, dated June 20th, 2017. Do you 8 see that? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. And the incident type in the top left is 11 simple assault and then criminal trespass. And if 12 you turn to the narrative section on page 1399, I'll 13 represent to you that the police here responded to a 14 fight between a prostitute and her pimp in Room 101 15 at the United Inn. The pimp left this prostitute's 16 room after the fight to go stay at another woman's 17 room at the hotel. 18 Do you agree that as of June 20th, 2017, 19 there was prostitution at the United Inn and Suites? 20 A. Yes, after looking at this report. 21 Q. Showing you Plaintiff's Exhibit 13, which 22 is Bates-stamped Plaintiff 1432 to 1433 -- 23 MR. STORY: David, Plaintiff 11. 24 MR. BOUCHARD: Thanks, Will. I'm 25 going to need that help, so don't hesitate</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 to offer.</p> <p>2 MR. STORY: You gave it in mine, so</p> <p>3 it's fine.</p> <p>4 MR. BOUCHARD: Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Plaintiff's 11, this is</p> <p>6 a police report dated July 21, 2017. Do you see</p> <p>7 that, Mr. Shareef?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And the incident type is prostitution; do</p> <p>10 you see that?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And if you look at page 1433, it says in</p> <p>13 the first paragraph, about halfway through the first</p> <p>14 paragraph, "On July 20th, 2017, the DeKalb County</p> <p>15 Vice Unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation</p> <p>16 Metro Atlanta Child Exploitation Task Force, with</p> <p>17 help from the North Central Precinct Neighborhood</p> <p>18 Enforcement Team, conducted an operation in reference</p> <p>19 to a child and an adult prostitution at 4649</p> <p>20 Memorial, United Inn and Suites, Decatur, Georgia.</p> <p>21 Do you see that?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. As of July 20th, 2017, do you agree that</p> <p>24 prostitution was occurring at the United Inn and</p> <p>25 Suites?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 2015? Answer: United Inn is/was one of the -- one of</p> <p>2 the problem hotels that we had in the DeKalb County</p> <p>3 for drug and prostitution anyway, so it was like a</p> <p>4 radar hotel that we knew about due to the fact that a</p> <p>5 lot of arrests were made, several arrests were made</p> <p>6 for narcotics and prostitution prior, for several</p> <p>7 years at the hotel. And any time that we got a</p> <p>8 female that we located off of Backpage.com and they</p> <p>9 gave us that address number, we immediately know the</p> <p>10 hotel, that it was United Inn.</p> <p>11 Do you understand what I just read to you?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Does that surprise you?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Because you, as of August 12th, 2015, did</p> <p>16 not understand that prostitution was commonly</p> <p>17 occurring at the United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. And prior to today, at no point in time,</p> <p>20 you're testifying, did you believe that United Inn</p> <p>21 and Suites had a problem with prostitution; is that</p> <p>22 correct?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah. After seeing these reports, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. So prior today, you never, at any point in</p> <p>25 time, believed that prostitution was a problem at the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 A. Yeah, after see this report, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. So you're saying that at the time, you</p> <p>3 didn't know about any of this prostitution going</p> <p>4 on --</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. -- that we just talked about?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Is that correct, you did not know is what</p> <p>9 --</p> <p>10 A. I did not.</p> <p>11 Q. -- you said?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. So I'm going to go back to this deposition</p> <p>14 that I was telling you about from the DeKalb County</p> <p>15 Police Department officer. And I want to read you</p> <p>16 some other portions of it and get your reactions to</p> <p>17 it.</p> <p>18 So I asked him about that August 12th,</p> <p>19 2015, report, which was the first police report we</p> <p>20 just looked at, Plaintiff's Exhibit 8. And you'll</p> <p>21 see one of the officers' names on that report is</p> <p>22 Officer Schofield. And I asked -- I'm now quoting</p> <p>23 from the deposition transcript. Question: How was it</p> <p>24 that you and Schofield ended up investigating this</p> <p>25 prostitution at the United Inn as of August 12th,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 hotel?</p> <p>2 A. No. We call the cop many times, you know,</p> <p>3 when -- in last, you know, 20 years, 18 years, you</p> <p>4 know, that there's a -- there people that is coming</p> <p>5 -- too many people going to the room, so there must</p> <p>6 be something wrong, so we need some help. And they</p> <p>7 came and they, you know, removed the people and they</p> <p>8 tell us, yes, that's a -- I mean, the woman is doing</p> <p>9 prostitution, so we going to take her out.</p> <p>10 Q. And who would be the one who would observe</p> <p>11 traffic to the room? I mean, I assume if you --</p> <p>12 A. We have --</p> <p>13 Q. -- if you're working behind the front</p> <p>14 desk, would you see traffic going to a room, or would</p> <p>15 it be another hotel staff member who could see that?</p> <p>16 A. It's combination of both. We see in the</p> <p>17 cameras, or the other hotel staff, they came at the</p> <p>18 front desk and tell us, you know, this room, you</p> <p>19 know, we have so many people coming in and out, you</p> <p>20 know. So that's how we, you know, get some help from</p> <p>21 the DeKalb County police.</p> <p>22 Q. So I wanted to read another portion to</p> <p>23 you, sir, from this police officer's deposition from</p> <p>24 DeKalb County.</p> <p>25 Question: Is it fair to say that there</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 were a number of women, in your experience, working 2 at the United Inn doing commercial sex activities? 3 Answer: Yes. Question: And was that true during the 4 entire time period that you were a member of the vice 5 unit from 2015 to 2021? Answer: Yes. 6 That -- that answer surprises you? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. I asked him, Question: Are you familiar -- 9 over the course of your time in law enforcement with 10 your work at the United Inn and Suites, are you 11 familiar with there being pimps at the hotel who were 12 working with prostitutes at the hotel? Answer: Yes. 13 Question: Were you familiar with there being pimps at 14 the United Inn and Suites who were overseeing 15 multiple prostitutes at the same time? Answer: Yes. 16 Question: Is the period of 2015 to 2021 when you were 17 familiar with there being pimps at the United Inn 18 overseeing multiple prostitutes? Answer: Yes. 19 That answer, again, surprises you, I take 20 it, Mr. Shareef? 21 A. That's right. 22 Q. Because you had no knowledge of there 23 being pimps overseeing multiple prostitutes at the 24 hotel; is that correct? 25 A. I have no knowledge, yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 Q. Well, as a hotel owner and manager, did 2 you ever participate in any trainings or receive any 3 materials educating you about the popularity of 4 websites being used to advertise commercial sex at 5 hotels like the United Inn and Suites? 6 A. I did not participate any, but other than 7 that, I -- I don't know. 8 Q. So I'm going to read to you, again, a 9 portion of question and answer I had with this police 10 officer. 11 Question: When you were working with the 12 vice unit, you said that you would go on websites 13 like Backpage and ListCrawler, correct? Answer: Yes. 14 Question: And when you went on those websites, did 15 you occasionally see advertisements for women who you 16 believed to be under the age of 18, that is, minors? 17 Answer: Yes. Question: Do you believe that some of 18 those women worked in commercial sex activity at the 19 United Inn and Suites? Answer: Yes. 20 Does that surprise you? 21 A. Yes, surprise me. 22 Q. I also asked him, Question: Do you know if 23 you can filter on Backpage to identify advertisements 24 in a certain area, and if that was only available to 25 you as a police officer or if that was available to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 Q. So from 2017 to 2019, you had no knowledge 2 of there being multiple pimps at the hotel overseeing 3 multiple prostitutes at the hotel? 4 MR. STORY: Objection. You can 5 answer. 6 THE WITNESS: I don't know how to 7 answer it. 8 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Are you familiar with 9 the website Backpage? 10 A. No. 11 Q. You have no knowledge of the website 12 Backpage? 13 A. No. 14 Q. Did you know that there are websites on 15 the Internet that exist for the purposes of 16 advertisements for commercial sex activities? 17 A. I don't know, but there must be a bunch of 18 them. I don't know. 19 Q. Well, do you know that or do you not know 20 that, that there are websites that exist for purposes 21 of advertising commercial sex? 22 A. No, I believe there may be so many, but, 23 you know, I -- I don't know the specific, you know -- 24 I never been to, you know, all these website and see 25 what's going on.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 everyone in the general public using that website. 2 Answer: Everyone in the general public can type it 3 in. If you know how to navigate through the 4 Backpage.com at the time, you could utilize it. 5 Did you know that? 6 A. No. 7 Q. Did you know that this police officer 8 testified that when he would filter on Backpage.com 9 for commercial sex advertisements around Memorial 10 Drive, nine out of ten of the posts would be coming 11 from United Inn and Suites? 12 MR. STORY: Object to the form. 13 THE WITNESS: So what is your 14 question then? 15 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Did you know that he 16 testified to that? 17 A. You're telling me he testified that. 18 Q. I am telling you he testified -- 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. -- to that. 21 A. But I did not know after. 22 Q. Did you know that Backpage had a filter 23 that you could use to try to locate where 24 advertisements were coming from? 25 A. No.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p> <p>1 VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record at 2 12:20. 3 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Mr. Shareef, I can 4 represent to you that as part of the discovery 5 process in this case, Northbrook Industries has 6 answered questions that we provided to them about 7 various issues in the case. Okay? And one of the 8 issues that we asked about was who monitors online 9 reviews at the hotel. And the response provided was 10 that you and Mr. Islam monitor reviews. Is that 11 correct? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Did somebody ask you to monitor online 14 reviews at the hotel, or did you take it upon 15 yourself to do that? 16 A. Took it upon ourself, yeah. 17 Q. Which websites would you monitor reviews 18 from? 19 A. On the Google. 20 Q. Any other websites? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Like Expedia on Priceline, Orbitz? 23 A. No, we don't do that. 24 Q. Just Google? 25 A. Yeah.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p> <p>1 Do you see that? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Did you see these reviews prior to today? 4 A. I had said -- I don't know about these 5 reviews, but the -- if these guests are -- if these 6 people are in our guest list, so we, you know, find 7 out and, you know, find the number from the -- from 8 our -- the check-in system from the record, and call 9 them and ask them that, you know, they gave us, you 10 know, this -- like a full of drugs. So what did the 11 -- what did they find out? So, it's like maybe, you 12 know, if I call them, they say, oh, you know what, 13 somebody knock my door and try to sell drug, and I 14 didn't like it. So we'll apologize that and, you 15 know, just to see if there is something that we can 16 fix it. 17 Sometimes they give us review that they 18 are -- they are there living there, and we fix their 19 problem right away. 20 Q. So I noticed that, for example, in 21 Plaintiff's Exhibit 12, there's no written response 22 here from the hotel -- 23 A. Uh-huh. 24 Q. -- to the review. 25 A. Right.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p> <p>1 Q. How did you decide to just do Google? 2 A. I think it would come automatically to 3 you, so that's what happened. 4 Q. Why did you look at online reviews? 5 A. To see, you know, what's going on, and if 6 there is something that we can do to fix it. That's 7 the reason. 8 Q. To try to get feedback from the customers? 9 A. Yeah. 10 Q. I want to show you Plaintiff's Exhibit 12, 11 which is a Google -- some Google reviews. 12 (Exhibit No. 12 was marked for 13 identification.) 14 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) And do you see 15 Plaintiff's Exhibit 12, Mr. Shareef -- 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. -- there's four reviews called out here on 18 the bottom half of the Document. One says, Full of 19 mess, drugs. Another one from Angela Monroe Wood 20 says, They cook drugs here. It's a no for me, dog. 21 Been coming here -- around here for nine months to 22 visit family who stay here, and this is horrific. 23 And then the last review says, Full of drug dealers 24 and addicts, had roaches there, costs too much a 25 week.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p> <p>1 Q. Right? Was it your practice to not write 2 a response on Google? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Are you saying that you would call people 5 -- 6 A. Call, yes. 7 Q. -- who left negative reviews? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. And you would -- 10 MR. STORY: Try to let him get his 11 question out. 12 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry. 13 MR. STORY: You're good. Try again 14 -- 15 Q. (By Mr Bouchard) So, are you saying you 16 would do that every time? 17 A. No. 18 Q. Sometimes? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Who would actually make the phone call, 21 Mr. Shareef? Would you personally? 22 A. I did. 23 Q. To try to address whatever it was that 24 caused the negative review? 25 A. Yes.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p> <p>1 looks like a regular car, but he has those lights on. 2 So it looks like a private car sometimes. 3 Q. And remember, I'm talking about 2017 to 4 2019? 5 A. Yeah, at that time, also. 6 Q. Okay. 7 A. Same thing. 8 Q. Same thing then? 9 A. Yeah. 10 Q. So, you've told me that when you were at 11 the property for 15 to 25 days a month, you would 12 typically be sleeping from around 10 or 11 until 6, 7 13 or 8 in the morning. So how would you know what 14 Webber and McClelland did when they were on their 15 shifts? 16 A. They -- I mean, we communicate via kind of 17 text message, phone call. And they come on a very 18 regular basis on the daytime. But again, many, many 19 nights, I'm up, you know. Like yesterday, I talked 20 with the officer at almost 1 a.m. And he was outside 21 and we have, you know, some conversation. So 22 sometimes I see them, you know, sitting at the car or 23 walking around, so we talk. 24 Q. So if you are awake, you might see them, 25 but if you are not awake, you're sleeping; you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p> <p>1 A. We don't. 2 Q. So they would -- before they left at 3 2 a.m., they would make an oral report to the person 4 working at the front desk telling them what -- 5 A. Not necessarily. 6 Q. Okay. 7 A. Not necessarily. 8 Q. Only if there was something that they 9 thought they needed to report? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. And if there was something they thought 12 they needed to report and they did report it, then 13 the front desk would convey that to you when you 14 started working in the morning? 15 A. That's right. 16 Q. Did you ever e-mail with Webber or 17 McClelland, or just text message? 18 A. Some was text message all that. 19 Q. I think you've suggested -- and maybe -- 20 correct me if I'm wrong. I understood you to suggest 21 that you decided to have security from 10 p.m. to 22 2 a.m. because that was the period of the 24-hour day 23 when there was the most activity on the property that 24 might be criminal in nature. 25 A. Yes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p> <p>1 obviously don't know what they were doing or not 2 doing? 3 A. Yeah, that's right. 4 Q. You're saying you would have text messages 5 between yourself and Officers Webber or McClelland? 6 A. Yeah. We text each other. Yeah... 7 Q. So when their shift ended at 2 a.m., if 8 I'm understanding correctly, most -- most nights, you 9 would be asleep, then. So would they write up a 10 report, or how would you learn what had transpired 11 during their shift? 12 A. When they leave, they inform the front 13 desk, you know, if something happened, or, you know 14 the front desk talk with them or they tell me, you 15 know, in the morning. Or maybe the officer next 16 morning, they tell me, hey, you know, I have two 17 room, you know, they are, you know, making noise or 18 they are -- you know, they standing outside or loud 19 music. And we put them in the room. So next day, I 20 can find out what's going on. 21 Q. So it was word of mouth? 22 A. Yeah. 23 Q. They wouldn't draft an actual document -- 24 A. No, we don't. 25 Q. -- report?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p> <p>1 MS. WARD: Objection. 2 THE WITNESS: Yeah. 3 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Outside of that time 4 period, you agree that there could still be criminal 5 activity of course, right? 6 A. Yeah, could be. 7 Q. Just because the security guard leaves at 8 2, doesn't mean there couldn't be crime at 2:15? 9 A. Uh-huh. 10 Q. Is that a yes? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. And from 2017 to 2019, you never had a 13 security company that you contracted with to provide 14 security at the hotel; it was just Officers Webber 15 and McClelland; is that right? 16 A. Right. 17 Q. Did you ever, at any point in time, sir, 18 have a security assessment done of the property? 19 A. Security assessment. No. 20 Q. Have you ever hired anybody to do an audit 21 of the property to try to determine what could be 22 done to enhance security? 23 A. No. 24 Q. Did the security guards, Webber and 25 McClelland, from the years 2017 to 2019, ever make</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p> <p>1 recommendations on what you could do to improve 2 security at the hotel? 3 A. Yes. We talk about it and they -- they're 4 not objecting it. 5 Q. What suggestions did they have on how you 6 could improve security at the hotel? 7 A. When this security person -- hiring a 8 security person coming or security company come up, I 9 ask them if they recommend, you know, some company 10 who is good that can do the job. And they said, you 11 know, the -- there are so many, I have to look. But 12 they never recommend anybody, but they, you know -- 13 the suggestion is there. 14 Q. Why didn't you look yourself? 15 A. In sometime of 2007, '8 and '9, I did hire 16 a security company, but I find out they -- they did 17 not turn out to be good. 18 Q. I think I've asked you this question a few 19 different ways. What is the reason why you did not 20 have any security at the hotel outside of 10 p.m. to 21 2 a.m.? 22 MS. WARD: Objection. 23 THE WITNESS: I don't know how to 24 answer it. 25 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Well, you're the manager</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p> <p>1 Q. Do you recall if Webber or McClelland ever 2 suggested hiring more security? 3 A. No, not really. 4 Q. You do not recall? 5 A. No. 6 Q. Did you ever have any complaints about 7 Webber or McClelland and the services they were 8 providing? 9 A. Complaint about those officers? 10 Q. Uh-huh. 11 A. No. 12 Q. You were pleased with the work they were 13 doing? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Was there a curfew from 27 [sic] to 2019 16 at the United Inn and Suites? 17 A. Curfew mean -- what does that mean, 18 curfew? 19 Q. People are not allowed to be outside of 20 their rooms. 21 A. Not the curfew. We enforce it, they're 22 not allowing to standing long time there. But 23 there's not a curfew thing. 24 Q. How would the cur- -- how would the rule 25 on loitering be enforced after 2:00 in the morning</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p> <p>1 and the owner. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. So, I mean, if this case goes to trial 4 and, for example, Mr. Shareef, you provide testimony 5 at trial, well, the reason why I didn't do that was 6 X, Y, Z, this is my only opportunity to find out why 7 the owner and the manager at the United Inn and 8 Suites didn't hire security guards for the other 9 20 hours of the day. So what -- is the reason I 10 don't know why, or is there a reason why you did not? 11 A. No, the only reason is I have, you know, 12 the -- the DeKalb County, I call them and they come 13 and, you know. I do whatever I need to make a call, 14 so if there is somebody need to be removed the 15 property, they come and do it for me, or some other, 16 you know, things. So, basically DeKalb County, yeah, 17 I call them and ask for help. That's the -- that 18 could be the reason. 19 Q. I think you mentioned that DeKalb County 20 police had recommended to you that you hire more 21 security? 22 A. Yeah, they suggest it, yes. 23 Q. When was that? Was that around 2017 to 24 2019? 25 A. I don't recall when was that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p> <p>1 before the morning shift shows up, because there's 2 only one person working at the hotel? 3 A. The -- the front desk who is there, they 4 go out and make a round. And when they see someone 5 standing there or maybe the -- you know, the -- we 6 got a -- you know, like we get complaint like 7 somebody from a certain room call, hey, there are 8 people standing and they have, you know, very loud, 9 and I cannot sleep, so they making noise or they 10 listen to music. So the front desk go there and tell 11 them to, you know, go in their room and sleep. 12 Q. Where are the surveillance cameras 13 located? 14 A. That is at the front desk. 15 Q. The feed where you could actually see what 16 the surveillance cameras are showing are at the front 17 desk? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Are they also behind the window? 20 A. No. 21 Q. So, you've said that at nighttime, the 22 front desk area is closed, the window is open. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Is the person -- the one person who's 25 working at the hotel behind the window at nighttime,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p> <p>1 do they have access to surveillance camera feeds?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Because there are -- there's a feed behind</p> <p>4 the window? Is there a screen --</p> <p>5 A. No, there's --</p> <p>6 Q. -- a video screen they can look at --</p> <p>7 A. Yeah, yeah.</p> <p>8 Q. -- behind the window?</p> <p>9 A. Yeah. We have monitor right there, so</p> <p>10 they are standing here, you know. So then let's say</p> <p>11 this is a window, and monitor is right here in this</p> <p>12 wall.</p> <p>13 Q. And how many cameras are there throughout</p> <p>14 the hotel property?</p> <p>15 A. I believe 36.</p> <p>16 Q. How many rooms are in the hotel?</p> <p>17 A. 172.</p> <p>18 Q. 172?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And what's max capacity at the hotel in</p> <p>21 terms of guests?</p> <p>22 A. Max capacity. I mean, I have maybe 10, 20</p> <p>23 rooms empty, you know, in the average day. Is that</p> <p>24 the question?</p> <p>25 Q. Well, that it -- that's the answer to a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p> <p>1 know, hanging there, loud conversation, or the</p> <p>2 smoking, they tell them, hey, man, there is no</p> <p>3 smoking policy in the DeKalb County hotel. So you</p> <p>4 cannot smoke. And then they tell them to go stay in</p> <p>5 the room.</p> <p>6 Q. So they would go out and talk to the</p> <p>7 guests about whatever it is they'd seen that was</p> <p>8 concerning?</p> <p>9 A. Yes. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. You've referenced a do-not-rent list. Is</p> <p>11 that actually like a document with a list of people's</p> <p>12 names on it?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 A. Big one.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you maintain that document?</p> <p>17 A. Big one, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. I don't know if it's been produced in</p> <p>19 discovery. So it's something you have at the hotel?</p> <p>20 A. That is -- I don't know how to produce</p> <p>21 that, but this is like -- can I give example, so this</p> <p>22 way maybe I explain better?</p> <p>23 So a person rent a room two years ago, or</p> <p>24 yesterday, and they misbehave for anything. We put</p> <p>25 them on a do-not-rent list. So when they come back,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p> <p>1 different question I was going to ask.</p> <p>2 A. Okay.</p> <p>3 Q. So, on average, would you be renting out</p> <p>4 about 150 rooms a night?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. And so if you have one or two or more</p> <p>7 guests, you may have 150 to 300 people staying at the</p> <p>8 hotel?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Or more, if there are more guests in a</p> <p>11 room, correct --</p> <p>12 A. Right. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. What's the max number of guests that</p> <p>14 should be in a room?</p> <p>15 A. Two adults, and two children.</p> <p>16 Q. So four?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Who was responsible for reviewing the</p> <p>19 surveillance camera footage? Is it whoever was</p> <p>20 working at the front desk at that point in time?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. And if they saw something concerning, what</p> <p>23 were they supposed to do?</p> <p>24 A. They go out and, you know, tell the --</p> <p>25 whoever is doing something, people are just, you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 161</p> <p>1 the system already give a red flag, so they cannot</p> <p>2 get a room at my place.</p> <p>3 Q. So, their name would somehow be entered</p> <p>4 into their reservation system and it -- there would</p> <p>5 be a flag --</p> <p>6 A. Something like that.</p> <p>7 Q. -- if that person came back?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. So it's not like you can go back to the</p> <p>10 office and pull up, like here's my do-not-rent list,</p> <p>11 it's not a paper document that you have. Is that</p> <p>12 what you're saying?</p> <p>13 A. I -- I never print it.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 A. I -- I don't know how to print it.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 A. But the system make it so easy, so in like</p> <p>18 a five second, we found out this guy stays in 20 --</p> <p>19 you know, '15 or '16, do not rent him a room.</p> <p>20 Q. Let me ask you about your reser- -- room</p> <p>21 reservation system. So, how -- I want to ask about</p> <p>22 searching your room reservation system.</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. Are you able to search your room</p> <p>25 reservation system for guests for a particular time</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 182</p> <p>1 document, but you think the first two were signed by</p> <p>2 Azfar?</p> <p>3 A. No, I don't say it's signed by Azfar. I</p> <p>4 don't know. I said somebody in the office.</p> <p>5 Q. You don't know who signed any of these?</p> <p>6 A. Right.</p> <p>7 Q. You presume it was somebody who works for</p> <p>8 Bulldog Insurance; is that correct?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Is that your insurance broker?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: I need to go to the</p> <p>13 bathroom.</p> <p>14 MR. STORY: Yeah, let's take a</p> <p>15 break.</p> <p>16 MR. BOUCHARD: Take a break.</p> <p>17 MS. WARD: And the food is here.</p> <p>18 VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record 1:22.</p> <p>19 (Recess was taken.)</p> <p>20 VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record at</p> <p>21 2:01.</p> <p>22 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Mr. Shareef, welcome</p> <p>23 back. Did you have a chance to have some lunch?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, yes. Thank you.</p> <p>25 Q. Very good. I want to move on now and talk</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 184</p> <p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Did that training include signs of</p> <p>3 criminal activity, including prostitution?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. In other words, would you cover, as part</p> <p>6 of the training that you would provide to staff,</p> <p>7 things to look out for that might indicate criminal</p> <p>8 activity?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And what types of things would you say to</p> <p>11 staff when you were training them about what might</p> <p>12 indicate criminal activity?</p> <p>13 A. So, we -- like our observation was that if</p> <p>14 we have seen evidence of too many people going -- you</p> <p>15 know any particular room, and they keep going back</p> <p>16 and forth, or the people are just standing in front</p> <p>17 -- front of the room, and they are, you know, talking</p> <p>18 loud, they are smoking, or, you know, they start,</p> <p>19 yelling at each other, fighting, so all these signs</p> <p>20 are that, you know, you need to be very careful and</p> <p>21 try to resolve it, you know. And tell people that</p> <p>22 they just go back to their room and stay in their</p> <p>23 room, or they leave. So, either case, if they go</p> <p>24 back to their room and calm down, that's fine. If</p> <p>25 they refuse to do it, then we call the DeKalb County</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 183</p> <p>1 to you a little bit more, Mr. Shareef, about training</p> <p>2 at the hotel.</p> <p>3 A. Okay.</p> <p>4 Q. If I've understood your testimony today</p> <p>5 correctly, it sounds like there were not formal</p> <p>6 scheduled training sessions with the entire staff all</p> <p>7 gathering together at one time, but instead there</p> <p>8 were kind of more casual informal discussions between</p> <p>9 you or Mr. Islam and individual staff members. Is</p> <p>10 that correct?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. So let me -- just to make sure I've got</p> <p>13 that, let me just ask you: From 2017 to 2019, were</p> <p>14 there ever training sessions provided at the hotel</p> <p>15 for all of the staff at the hotel at the same time?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Would you train staff at the hotel by</p> <p>18 talking with them one on one?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Is that how Mr. Islam would have trained</p> <p>21 staff at the hotel as well?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you believe that all of the staff who</p> <p>24 worked at the hotel from 2017 through 2019 received</p> <p>25 training at some point?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 185</p> <p>1 and seek for their help. And when they come in,</p> <p>2 they, you know, kind of observe that -- what is going</p> <p>3 on. Sometime they find out the person who is</p> <p>4 involved in any type of commotion, you know, they</p> <p>5 have some kind of warning or the warrant against</p> <p>6 them, so they take them away. Or sometime we tell</p> <p>7 them to -- you know, we don't want this person here</p> <p>8 anymore, remove them from the property. So they</p> <p>9 remove it, and we get the trespass warning against</p> <p>10 them so they never come back.</p> <p>11 So those are the things we talk to our</p> <p>12 staff, and they observe it very carefully.</p> <p>13 Q. Are there any other things that you would</p> <p>14 tell your staff to look out for as it relates to</p> <p>15 trying to identify criminal activity? You just gave</p> <p>16 me a list of items. I'm wondering is there anything</p> <p>17 else or did you just tell me everything.</p> <p>18 A. The -- most of the time is that we just</p> <p>19 cannot -- I don't go in the room for, you know -- if</p> <p>20 we think there is something going on -- into the</p> <p>21 room. So we call the, you know, police and tell</p> <p>22 them, you know, that, look, we need help to find out,</p> <p>23 you know, why these people have so -- so much traffic</p> <p>24 going to the room. And they don't listen to us, so</p> <p>25 they need to be removed from the property.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 186</p> <p>1 Q. Did all of the housekeepers speak English 2 from 2017 to 2019? 3 A. Some speaks little bit better, but some, 4 they don't. 5 Q. And so, if -- I'm assuming would they 6 speak -- based on the names, would they speak 7 Spanish? 8 A. They did speak Spanish. 9 Q. Did some of the housekeepers from 2017 to 10 2019 not speak English at all? 11 A. No. Everybody speak English. 12 Q. Did some of the housekeepers speak very 13 limited English? 14 A. Uh-huh. 15 Q. And would -- when you say you would train 16 staff at the hotel through one-on-one discussions, 17 either involving you or Mr. Islam, would you talk in 18 Spanish to somebody who speaks very limited English? 19 A. No. We have three housekeeper they speak 20 fairly well. So they involve them stay with us, and 21 then they translated. 22 Q. How often would you have these discussions 23 about what to look for as it relates to criminal 24 activity on the property? Was this the kind of 25 thing, Mr. Shareef, where when you hired somebody and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 188</p> <p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Did you, at any point in time, 3 specifically provide a training or discussion 4 focusing on prostitution or sex trafficking or sex 5 for money? 6 A. Yes, we talk about it. And we did tell 7 them that, you know, everybody need to have their, 8 you know, eyes keep it open and see what happened. 9 And then the -- the sex trafficking or the 10 prostitution, we just cannot, you know, go and don't 11 know how to, you know, go for no reason in the room 12 and tell them what you're doing is prostitution and 13 sex trafficking. So in that case, you know, we 14 always seek help from the DeKalb County Police. 15 Q. Of course, I assume, and correct me if I'm 16 wrong, the housekeepers at United Inn and Suites 17 would regularly go into hotel rooms to clean -- 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. -- right? 20 A. To clean, yes. 21 Q. And if there were any evidence of 22 commercial sex activities occurring outside of the 23 room, either in the stairwells, in the hallways, in 24 the parking lots, that is visible to staff at the 25 hotel, right?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 187</p> <p>1 you were introducing them to the property and they 2 were beginning their work at the property, that you 3 would talk to them about criminal activity and what 4 to look for? Or is it something that you continued 5 to talk to hotel staff about on an ongoing basis? 6 A. Of course whenever we hire any new person, 7 that is part of their, you know, detail, work ethics, 8 you know, what to do, besides how to do their job. 9 So we tell them all the -- all the thing which I 10 already explained to you. And then at least we go, 11 maybe -- if not a monthly basis, maybe bi-monthly 12 basis, we talk to them and just refresh the memory. 13 Q. Were there ever training materials 14 distributed in writing, or were all of the trainings 15 oral? 16 A. No. 17 Q. All of the trainings were oral? 18 A. Just oral, yes. 19 Q. So there's no written training materials? 20 A. No. 21 Q. And that rhythm or schedule that you just 22 described of, I'd train people when they started 23 working at the hotel, and then maybe on a monthly or 24 every two months basis have a conversation with them, 25 was that true from 2017 to 2019?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 189</p> <p>1 A. Right. 2 Q. Because it's not in a hotel room? 3 A. Uh-huh. 4 Q. Is that correct? 5 A. That's right. 6 Q. Mr. Shareef, you gave me -- as I said and 7 as you've said, you gave me a list of things that you 8 told staff to look for that would indicate criminal 9 activity. When you talk to staff about prostitution 10 or sex for money at the hotel and things to look for, 11 did you give them any additional items to look for, 12 or is it similar to the items that you already 13 described? 14 A. Basically similar from the item. 15 Q. Where would these conversations occur when 16 you would train, provide these trainings to staff 17 members? Where would you be? 18 A. Next to the front desk, we have just a -- 19 we call it back office. So, with the -- with the 20 front desk staff, we kind of sit there in the back 21 office and have some conversation. And for the 22 housekeeping, they have their lunchroom, we can call. 23 So the sitting area. So -- but, you know, about 24 eight chairs there, sometimes they have for -- you 25 know, get together for the lunchtime, or sometime</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 190</p> <p>1 when they are finish the day work, and before they 2 clock out, so we talk about it. 3 Q. And is there a clock-in, clock-out system? 4 A. Clock-in, clock-out system, yes. 5 Q. Where is that system? 6 A. That is in the main office. 7 Q. Which is by the lobby and the front desk? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Do -- is it a punch card system or how 10 does -- how -- 11 A. Yes, punch card. 12 Q. Punch card. Was that true in 2017 to 13 2019? 14 A. Yeah. 15 Q. Is there an electronic record of -- 16 A. No. 17 Q. No? Okay. The information that you would 18 provide in the trainings, Mr. Shareef, what you've 19 described to me, where did you get that information 20 from? 21 A. This is -- we have, like this observation 22 for last, you know, 17 years, and then we have, you 23 know, something, you know, come up at the -- help 24 with the police officer, you know. So -- but the 25 basic -- but the basic thing which I emphasize to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 192</p> <p>1 A. Yeah. 2 Q. Do you believe everybody who worked at the 3 hotel in that time period would verify that if they 4 were asked that question? 5 A. Yeah. 6 Q. Other than you and Mr. Islam, was anybody 7 else responsible for providing training of hotel 8 staff? 9 A. No. 10 Q. In the years 2017 to 2019, nobody else -- 11 A. Nobody else. 12 Q. -- was responsible? 13 A. Yeah. 14 Q. Would you and Mr. Islam, you know, prepare 15 together in terms of what you were going to tell 16 staff about what to look for? Would you discuss 17 together? 18 A. We discuss together, yes. Not -- I don't 19 want to -- but bear -- we discuss together, and then 20 we can, you know, address for if we have, you know, 21 something we call the cops, you know, on -- on 22 someone, on some of the rooms. So we kind of mention 23 that, hey, you know, this front desk person or the 24 housekeeper mentioned something. And on their 25 observation, we remove that person from the property.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 191</p> <p>1 them, that do not enforce anything, you know, call -- 2 tell the front desk, tell us. Just identify the 3 room, all the people, and then we take care of the 4 rest of the thing. 5 Q. So are you saying the information that you 6 relied upon to provide these trainings to the hotel 7 staff, was that information based on your 8 observations of the property over 17 years? 9 A. Yeah. 10 Q. As opposed to saying, no, it was based on 11 this manual that I had from AAHOA, or this manual I 12 got from the American Hospitality and Lodging 13 Association, so was there any training material like 14 that, like a document that you were relying on, or 15 was it your observations of the property? 16 A. Yeah, but those -- yeah, those document 17 which I read, you know, that time. So those are 18 basically some common sense. But, you know, that is 19 maybe a -- like a few papers, you know, in the office 20 file. But we kind of never provide them any written 21 -- like a material. 22 Q. And you believe, as you've said, that 23 everybody who would have worked at the property from 24 2017 to '19, would have been trained in the way 25 you've described?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 193</p> <p>1 And we need to tell the other people to, you know, do 2 the same. 3 Q. Did you ever ask any outside organizations 4 to provide a training to the hotel staff? 5 A. No. 6 Q. On any topic related to crime or any other 7 topic, you did not? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Did you post any flyers at the hotel about 10 human trafficking? 11 A. I don't know. I don't think so, but I -- 12 I can -- I can picture it, I have something, but it's 13 -- it's buried, you know, under the other paperwork 14 on the -- on the wall I'm talking about. 15 Q. Is this a wall in the lobby or where are 16 you thinking of -- 17 A. Yeah. 18 Q. In the lobby? 19 A. Yeah. 20 Q. I want to look back at Plaintiff's 21 Exhibit 2, which is this Blue Campaign document, 22 Mr. Shareef. 23 A. Uh-huh. 24 Q. Do you remember talking very briefly about 25 this --</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 210</p> <p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 A. There's a few wholesaler in DeKalb County,</p> <p>3 we get from there.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you have guests at the hotel who have</p> <p>5 traveled across state lines to come stay at the</p> <p>6 property? In other words, guests from out of state.</p> <p>7 A. Lots of them, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And you accept credit cards at the hotel?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 MR. BOUCHARD: Are we on 18?</p> <p>11 MR. STORY: I think we're on 17, but</p> <p>12 if --</p> <p>13 MS. WARD: We've already had 17.</p> <p>14 MR. BOUCHARD: Yes.</p> <p>15 MS. WARD: 18 will be next.</p> <p>16 MR. STORY: Okay. Okay.</p> <p>17 MR. BOUCHARD: 18 was the -- 17 was</p> <p>18 the insurance application.</p> <p>19 MS. WARD: Yes.</p> <p>20 MR. STORY: Yes. Got you.</p> <p>21 MR. BOUCHARD: All right.</p> <p>22 (Exhibit No. 18 was marked for</p> <p>23 identification.)</p> <p>24 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Showing you what's been</p> <p>25 marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 18. I can represent to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 212</p> <p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. You don't think you've seen them before?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Again, if they said that they recognized</p> <p>5 you, would you say I've definitely never seen them</p> <p>6 before, or would you just say, I may have, but I</p> <p>7 don't remember because I see a lot of guests?</p> <p>8 A. I think I -- I don't recall. I'm not</p> <p>9 remember them.</p> <p>10 Q. Showing you a photo that's been marked as</p> <p>11 Plaintiff's Exhibit 20.</p> <p>12 (Exhibit No. 20 was marked for</p> <p>13 identification.)</p> <p>14 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) I'll represent to you</p> <p>15 this is a photo of G.W. Is this, from what you can</p> <p>16 tell, Mr. Shareef, a photo of a room at the United</p> <p>17 Inn and Suites?</p> <p>18 A. I don't know if these two lines represent</p> <p>19 what here. So, I don't -- I don't recall these two</p> <p>20 lines there. What is this?</p> <p>21 MR. STORY: I think that's a mirror.</p> <p>22 MR. BOUCHARD: A mirror.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Oh, that's a mirror.</p> <p>24 Okay.</p> <p>25 MR. STORY: It's harder because it's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 211</p> <p>1 you that this is a picture of J.G. taken when she was</p> <p>2 16 years old, which is how old she was when she was</p> <p>3 sex trafficked at the United Inn and Suites. Do you</p> <p>4 recognize Ms. J.D.?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. You don't believe you've ever seen her</p> <p>7 before?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. And if she said she recognized you and had</p> <p>10 seen you before, would you say it's possible you</p> <p>11 don't remember seeing her, or you are certain you</p> <p>12 have never seen her before?</p> <p>13 A. If she said she saw me, maybe, because I</p> <p>14 have, you know, more than 300 people at any given</p> <p>15 time. So, I may not be -- remember all the faces.</p> <p>16 (Exhibit No. 19 was marked for</p> <p>17 identification.)</p> <p>18 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) I'm sending -- sorry,</p> <p>19 excuse me. Showing you a photo what I've marked as</p> <p>20 Plaintiff's Exhibit 19, which is, I'll represent to</p> <p>21 you, a photo of A.G., G.W. and a sex buyer at the</p> <p>22 United Inn and Suites in 2017. Do you recognize, in</p> <p>23 Plaintiff's Exhibit 19 --</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. -- either of the women photographed there?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 213</p> <p>1 in black and white, but can you see this is</p> <p>2 a border of a mirror, I believe --</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: Okay. Okay. Yeah.</p> <p>4 That room seems to be our room.</p> <p>5 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) Does that look to be a</p> <p>6 United Inn and Suites room?</p> <p>7 A. I mean, we have, you know, this kind of</p> <p>8 carpet.</p> <p>9 Q. Well, I mean, you've lived at the</p> <p>10 property. I assume you're quite familiar with what</p> <p>11 --</p> <p>12 A. No, I --</p> <p>13 Q. -- the rooms look like?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, but I'm -- but there are -- if you</p> <p>15 go to any hotel in that road, they have the same</p> <p>16 carpet, same beds.</p> <p>17 Q. That's what I'm asking.</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, so.</p> <p>19 Q. Does this appear to be a room at the</p> <p>20 United Inn and Suites?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah. I can say yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Showing you Plaintiff's Exhibit 21.</p> <p>23 (Exhibit No. 21 was marked for</p> <p>24 identification.)</p> <p>25 Q. (By Mr. Bouchard) This is a slightly</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 214</p> <p>1 closer up version of the photo of the plaintiff A.G. 2 are you saying you still do not recognize Ms. A.G.? 3 A. No. 4 Q. You said that there were 36 surveillance 5 cameras at the hotel. Are any of those surveillance 6 cameras angled towards the parking lot at the hotel? 7 A. Yeah, a few of them. 8 Q. Are any of those cameras angled towards 9 the front parking lot, facing Memorial Drive? 10 A. Yeah, few of them. 11 Q. I think you said at the beginning of your 12 deposition, Mr. Shareef, that you handled payroll 13 matter -- matters for the company. Is that right? 14 A. Yeah. 15 Q. Are you the one in charge of payroll or is 16 anybody else in charge? 17 A. I'm the one. 18 Q. Mr. Islam is not in charge of it? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Were you in charge of payroll from 2017 to 21 2019? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. How do you pay the hotel staff? Is it 24 cash, check, some other way? 25 A. Pay cash, I pay checks.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 216</p> <p>1 A. Yeah. 2 Q. And are the people who work at the hotel 3 or who worked there from 2017 to 2019, are they W-2 4 employees or 1099? 5 A. Yeah, W-2 or 1099. 6 Q. So would you have a W-2 or a 1099 for 7 everybody who worked at the hotel from 2017 to 2019? 8 A. I should, or my CPA should have it. 9 Q. Do you take a salary from the hotel -- 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. -- or how are you paid? You take a 12 salary? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. What's your salary? 15 A. About 5,000 a month. 16 Q. Does your wife also get paid? 17 A. Yeah. 18 Q. Is she salaried as well? 19 A. Yeah. 20 Q. Same amount or -- 21 A. Uh-huh, almost same. 22 Q. Are you a W-2 employee of the hotel? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. And was that true 2017 to 2019? 25 A. Yes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 215</p> <p>1 Q. Cash and checks? 2 A. Yeah. 3 Q. How do you decide whether to pay cash or 4 check? 5 A. If someone says that, you know, it's going 6 to cost them to, you know, go to the bank and cash 7 their check, and so, I pay cash just so they're not, 8 you know, paying any money to the bank. 9 Q. If someone says they'd prefer to be paid 10 in cash, then you pay them in cash? 11 A. Yeah. 12 Q. Are the staff that work at the hotel paid 13 by the hour or by salary? 14 A. Paid by the hour. 15 Q. And that was true in 2017 to 2019? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Is there a company that handles the 18 hotel's accounting? 19 A. I hired a CPA. 20 Q. What's the name of the CPA? 21 A. His name is -- 2017, 2019, Habib. 22 H-A-B-I-B, Habib. But he died in 2021, I guess. 23 Q. So he would have been the CPA 2017, 2018? 24 A. Yeah. 25 Q. 2019?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 217</p> <p>1 Q. Has your pay changed since 2017, or has it 2 been about the same? 3 A. Little bit, maybe. 4 Q. Fairly similar, though? I mean, was it 5 about 5,000 a month for you -- 6 A. Maybe that time -- 7 Q. What? 8 A. 4,500 before. 9 Q. I didn't hear you. 10 A. 4,500 in 2017. 11 Q. Do you get any bonuses based on the 12 performance of the hotel or for some other reason? 13 A. No. 14 Q. So you collect a flat salary? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Is that right? And then what about your 17 percentage ownership interest, do you get some 18 additional amount based on the performance of the 19 hotel? 20 A. Based on perform -- no. 21 Q. Well, does Mr. Sabharwal get anything for 22 his stake in the -- in the business? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Okay. So he does, but you do not, other 25 than your salary?</p>